

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-19 are pending herein.

I. Claim objections based on informalities.

The USPTO respectfully objects to claims 1, 7, and 10 because of formalities. Applicants respectfully note that these claims have been amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

II. Claim rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Of these claims, claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully note that independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Regarding the amendments to claims 1 and 7, it is respectfully noted that pages 10-16 of the present specification and present Figures 2 through 6 provide a thorough explanation of “hierarchy” as it is used in the claims.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1 and 7 are not indefinite, and it is therefore further respectfully asserted that dependent claims 4-6 and 10-18 are also not indefinite.

III. The anticipation rejections based on "More DOS for Dummies" by Dan Gookin (Copyright 1994).

The USPTO respectfully rejects Claims 1-18 under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gookin. Of these claims, claims 1 and 7 are independent claims.

A. Gookin does not disclose searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract the prescribed directory structure

comprising the directory having the first name the directory having a second name, as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 1 claims in relevant part:

“searching the ~~plural-plurality of~~ directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract thea prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name,” (emphasis added)

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Support for the amendments can be found on pages 16-17 of the present specification and in present Figure 7.

Regarding the claimed limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully not seen where Gookin discloses the method step quoted above.

As a preliminary matter, on page 4 of the Office Action, the USPTO respectfully alleges that “Figure 2” on page 236 of Gookin discloses the claimed method step quoted above. However, it is respectfully noted that there is no “Figure 2” in the Gookin reference, and there do not appear to be any “figures” *per se* in the pages surrounding the cited portion of Gookin. Instead, it is respectfully believed that “Figure 2” refers to the second gray display box on page 236, and the following remarks are made based on this belief.

Regarding the second display box on page 236 of Gookin, it does not appear to disclose the claimed method step quoted above. Specifically, page 234 of Gookin says “to change to another **directory**, type CD followed by the name of the new **directory** you want DOS to find.” (emphasis added) It is respectfully important to note that Gookin discloses extracting a **single directory** using the CD command.

For example, in the second display box on page 236 cited by USPTO, the command “CD:\CD \123\DOOM” would extract a **single directory**, namely the “DOOM” directory. Even though the command contains two directory names (i.e., “123” and “DOOM”), it appears that **only the “DOOM” directory is extracted** for the user to work with. There is no indication that the “123” directory is also extracted with the “DOOM” directory. Therefore, Gookin respectfully **does not disclose extracting the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name,** as claimed in claim 1.

The method disclosed in Gookin is different from the method claimed in claim 1, which **extracts a prescribed directory structure comprising at least two directories**, namely “the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name.” For example, pages 16-18 of the present specification describe one possible embodiment of method claimed in claim 1. As noted on page 16 of the present specification, the user inputs a first directory name and a second directory name. As further noted on page 17 of the present specification, **at least the two named directories are extracted** and displayed. Pages 17-18 describe how the user can manipulate these directories and process the files in the directories.

It is respectfully important to note that, in the search described on pages 16-18 of the present specification, **multiple directories** are extracted and available to the user. Thus, the search **extracted the prescribed directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name**, as claimed in claim 1, in contrast to the **single directory** that is extracted in the Gookin reference.

Thus, it is respectfully asserted that Gookin does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that Gookin does not anticipate claim 1.

B. The noted difference is important and non-trivial.

The noted difference is important and not trivial because the claimed method provides **inherent** advantages over conventional methods. For example, according to the directory searching method of claim 1, a prescribed directory structure can be extracted by searching a plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name. If there is more than one directory structure having the first and second name, all the prescribed directory structures could be extracted, as shown in steps S105 through S107 in present Figure 7.

Additionally, as respectfully noted by the USPTO, Gookin discloses inputting a DOS command at the command prompt with the first and second directory names. **However, in Gookin, the user has to know all the directory tree structure from root to the target directory.**

In contrast, according to the method of claim 1, the user does not have to know all the tree structure from root to the target directory. Instead, by only by specifying a first directory

name and a second directory name, the operator can extract **all of prescribed directory structures.**

C. Independent claim 7.

Claim 7 claims a similar limitation to claim 1, namely:

“a searching device ~~of~~for searching the plurality of directory structures based on the first name and the second name so as to extract ~~the prescribed~~a directory structure comprising the directory having the first name and the directory having the second name.”

As noted above, it is respectfully asserted that Gookin does not disclose this limitation, and therefore Gookin does not anticipated claim 7.

D. The dependent claims.

As noted above, it is respectfully asserted that independent claims 1 and 7 are allowable, and therefore it is further respectfully asserted that dependent claims 4-6 and 10-18 are also allowable.

IV. New claim 19.

Applicants respectfully noted that new claim 19 has been added. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment can be found on pages 16-17 of the present specification.

V. Conclusion.

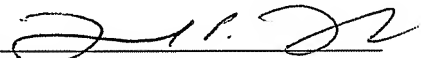
Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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